

CHAPTER 14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

This chapter describes some of the opportunities that have been made available to the public for comment on and participation in the development of the Russian River Watershed Pathogen Indicator Bacteria TMDL Staff Report and Implementation Plan.

14.1 STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

Regional Water Board staff has held numerous meetings to update and inform key stakeholders and the public throughout the Russian River Watershed TMDL development process. The outreach meetings related to the TMDL have included both public meetings and meetings targeted to small groups of individuals and local agency representatives who were identified by Regional Water Board staff as key stakeholders in the TMDL process in the Russian River Watershed. A list of the stakeholder and public meetings that have been held about the Russian River Watershed TMDL is presented in Table 14.1.

Table 14.1 Stakeholder and Public Meetings for the Russian River Watershed TMDL		
Subject	Date	Participants
Monte Rio Community Forum	October 20, 2012	Public Meeting in Monte Rio
Public Outreach	May 28, 2013	Fitch Mountain Neighborhood Association Sonoma County Supervisor Mike McGuire
Implementation Plan Outreach	August 21, 2013	Sonoma County Community Development Agency
Implementation Brainstorming Session 1	May 20, 2014	Sonoma County Water Coalition Russian Riverkeepers Green Valley Watershed Committee
Implementation Brainstorming Session 2	June 5, 2014	Sonoma County Continuum of Care
Implementation Brainstorming Session 3	June 5, 2014	Sonoma County Water Agency Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department (PRMD) Sonoma County Community Development Agency Board Members Bill Massey and David Noren
Implementation Brainstorming Session 4	July 1, 2014	Sonoma County Water Agency Sonoma County PRMD City of Santa Rosa City of Sebastopol City of Cotati City of Rohnert Park Town of Windsor City of Ukiah Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner
Implementation Brainstorming Session 5	July 3, 2014	Sonoma County Department of Health Services

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**Table 14.1
Stakeholder and Public Meetings for the Russian River Watershed TMDL**

Subject	Date	Participants
Implementation Brainstorming Session 6	July 9, 2014	Sonoma Resource Conservation District Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District Mendocino Resource Conservation District Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner
Implementation Plan Update	August 15, 2014	Summer Home Park Monte Rio Villa Grande Russian River Redevelopment Oversight Committee (Fitch Mountain) Sonoma County Supervisor Efren Carrillo Sonoma County Water Agency Sonoma County PRMD Board Members Bill Massey and David Noren
Implementation Plan Outreach	August 28, 2014	Public Meeting in Santa Rosa
Stakeholder Outreach Meeting	January 9, 2015	North Bay Association of Realtors in Santa Rosa
Russian River Watershed Pathogen TMDL Technical Group Meeting	January 30, 2015	Representatives from the Communities of: Guerneville Occidental Monte Rio Villa Grande Fitch Mountain Northwood Property Owners
Public Workshops on draft TMDL and Action Plan	September 22, 2015 September 23, 2015 September 24, 2015	Lower river stakeholders Upper river stakeholders Middle river stakeholders
Regional Water Board hearing on proposed TMDL and Action Plan	November 19, 2015	All interested stakeholders

14.1.1 CEQA SCOPING MEETING

The purpose of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Scoping Meeting was to solicit public comments to help staff assess the potential environmental scope of the environmental analysis. Holding a scoping meeting is a requirement of the CEQA. The CEQA scoping meeting for the Russian River Watershed TMDL was held on January 30, 2015, in Santa Rosa, CA. The comments received at the CEQA scoping meeting that concerned the scope of the environmental review are summarized in Chapter 11. These comments, and others, helped to shape the scope of the environmental review and specific aspects of the analysis.

14.1.2 RUSSIAN RIVER TMDL WEBPAGE

In addition to holding public meetings, Regional Water Board staff has maintained a webpage on the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's website where the latest, up-to-date information on the Russian River TMDL development process can be found. The webpage also includes a map of the watershed, a description of the current Clean Water Act Section 303(d) listing, project documents, quality assurance plans, technical memoranda, and board presentations. The website can be accessed at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdls/russian_river/

14.2 PRESENTATIONS TO THE REGIONAL WATER BOARD

Periodically, Regional Water Board staff has presented updates and status reports to the Regional Water Board and interested members of the public on the Russian River Watershed Pathogen Indicator Bacteria TMDL. The presentations were opportunities for the public and Board members to hear status updates and background information regarding progress and emerging issues related to the TMDL development process. At each of these meetings, the public also had the opportunity to give comment before the Board. All such comments are part of the public record. Table 14.2 presents a complete list of the presentations given to the Regional Water Board about various aspects of Russian River Watershed Pathogen Indicator Bacteria TMDL development.

Table 14.2 Presentations given at Regional Water Board meetings		
Subject	Date	Location
Early TMDL Implementation and Monitoring	November 3, 2011	Santa Rosa, CA
Update on Regulatory and TMDL Efforts	January 27, 2011	Santa Rosa, CA
Update on Russian Basin Watershed TMDL	August 23, 2012	Santa Rosa, CA
Russian River Biological Opinion, Fish Habitat & Water Rights Project, and Pathogen TMDL	August 22, 2013	Santa Rosa, CA
Update on Russian Basin Watershed TMDL	March 13, 2014	Santa Rosa, CA

14.3 PRESENTATIONS TO COUNTY SUPERVISORS

In order to keep local agencies informed of the details of the Russian River Watershed TMDL, Regional Water Board staff met with County Supervisors from Sonoma County and Mendocino County. A list of these presentations is available in Table 14.3.

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Table 14.3 Presentations given to County Supervisors		
Subject	Date	Venue
Russian Basin TMDL	January 22, 2015	Sonoma County Board Supervisors Efren Carrillo and James Gore
Russian River TMDL	February 6, 2015	Sonoma County Board Supervisor Shirlee Zane
Russian River TMDL	February 9, 2015	Sonoma County Board Supervisor David Babbitt
Russian River TMDL	February 18, 2015	Sonoma County Board Supervisor Susan Gorin
Russian River TMDL	April 6, 2015	Sonoma County Board Supervisors Efren Carrillo and James Gore

14.4 PEER REVIEW

Prior to development of the Public Review Draft of the Russian River Watershed TMDL Staff Report, a peer- review draft report was reviewed by the following two professors as part of a formal state-mandated peer-review process:

- Dr. Nicholas J. Ashbolt, Alberta Innovates Translational Research Chair in Water, School of Public Health, at the University of Alberta, Canada;
- Dr. Patricia A. Holden, Professor of Bren School, Director of UCSB Natural Reserve System at the University of California, Santa Barbara

14.5 AUGUST 2015 PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

Chapters 1-9 of the August 2015 Public Review Draft of the Staff Report were posted on the Regional Water Board website on August 21, 2015. The proposed Staff Report and the Implementation Plan will be posted and available for public review and comment on prior to the adoption hearing on November 19, 2015. The public review period for the Staff Report and Action Plan was set to close on October 8, 2015.

The August 2015 Public Review Draft release and public comment period dates are summarized below.

August 2015 Public Review Draft Release: Postings: August 21, 2015
 End of August 2015 Public Review Draft Comment Period October 8, 2015

Throughout the Basin Plan amendment process, there are opportunities for public participation and comment, including at the CEQA scoping meetings, and three Regional

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Water Board workshops planned to be held prior to the Regional Water Board hearing for the proposed TMDL Basin Plan amendment, at the Regional Water Board hearing to consider adoption of the TMDL Basin Plan amendment, before the State Water Board, and during public forum at any Regional Water Board meeting. The following opportunities and their estimated dates remain for public comment on the proposed Russian River Pathogen Indicator Bacteria TMDL Basin Plan amendment. Please note that the following dates and meeting locations may change and additional meetings may be scheduled. Interested parties should check the Regional Water Board website for announcements regarding Regional Water Board meetings, revisions to the DO objectives, and the Russian River TMDL at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/>.

- Public Workshop 1..... September 22, 2015
Monte Rio Middle School in Monte Rio
- Public Workshop 2..... September 23, 2015
University of California Cooperative Extension in Ukiah
- Public Workshop 3..... September 24, 2015
Regional Water Board Office in Santa Rosa
- End of August 2015 Public Review Draft Comment Period..... October 8, 2015
- Public Adoption Hearing..... November 19, 2015
before the Regional Water Board in Santa Rosa, CA